

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery having at least a lithium-transition metal composite oxide of a layer structure,

wherein:

the lithium-transition metal composite oxide is a lithium cobaltate particle,
an existence ratio of zirconium and magnesium is respectively 20% or more,
wherein the zirconium and magnesium are uniformly dispersed on a surface of the lithium cobaltate particle,

at least a part of the zirconium on said surface is present as lithium zirconate,
at least a part of the magnesium on said surface is present as magnesium
oxide, and

the existence ratio is a quotient of a total length of all portions of a first line that exceeds 4% of peak value divided by a length of a second line passing through a point that has a highest concentration of zirconium or magnesium, respectively, that is assigned a peak value of 100%, wherein a concentration of zirconium or magnesium, respectively, per unit area is obtained from a line analysis of the surface of the lithium-transition metal composite oxide by using an electron probe microanalyzer.

3-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery,
comprising:

a strip positive electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip positive electrode current collector, a positive electrode active material layer employing the positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2;

a strip negative electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip negative electrode current collector, a negative electrode active material layer employing, as a negative electrode active material, a lithium metal, a lithium alloy, a carbon material capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions or a compound capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions; and

a strip separator;

in which:

the strip positive electrode and the strip negative electrode laminated with the strip separator between them are wound plural times to form a web of the strip positive electrode and the strip negative electrode with the strip separator intervening between them.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the positive electrode active material is prepared from a starting material mixture obtained by adding an aqueous solution containing cobalt ions, zirconium ions, and magnesium ions to an aqueous alkaline solution to precipitate.

20. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, comprising:

a strip positive electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip positive electrode current collector, a positive electrode active material layer employing the

positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 19;

a strip negative electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip negative electrode current collector, a negative electrode active material layer employing, as a negative electrode active material, a lithium metal, a lithium alloy, a carbon material capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions or a compound capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions; and

a strip separator;

in which:

the strip positive electrode and the strip negative electrode laminated with the strip separator between them are wound plural times to form a web of the strip positive electrode and the strip negative electrode with the strip separator intervening between them.

21. (Withdrawn) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the surface of the lithium cobaltate particle further comprises aluminum at an existence ratio of 20% or more and at least a part of the aluminum on said surface is present as aluminum oxide.

22. (Withdrawn) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the surface of the lithium cobaltate particle further comprises titanium at an existence ratio of 20% or more and at least a part of the titanium on said surface is present as lithium titanate.

23. (Withdrawn) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the surface of the lithium cobaltate particle further comprises a sulfate group.

24. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the existence ratio of zirconium is 40% or more.

25. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the existence ratio of zirconium is 50% or more.

26. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the existence ratio of zirconium is 60% or more.

27. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the existence ratio of zirconium is 80% or more.

28. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein zirconium exists on the surface of the lithium-transition metal composite oxide in a ratio of 0.01 to 2 mol% zirconium with respect to the lithium-transition metal composite oxide.

29. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein zirconium exists on the surface of the lithium-transition metal composite oxide in a ratio of 0.02 to 0.3 mol% zirconium with respect to the lithium-transition metal composite oxide.

30. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein zirconium exists on the surface of the lithium-transition metal composite oxide in a ratio of 0.04 to 0.25 mol% zirconium with respect to the lithium-transition metal composite oxide.

31. (New) The positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the lithium cobaltate particle contains particles having a volume-based particle diameter of 50 μm or more in a ratio of 10 vol% or less with respect to total particles.